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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7234

BILL NUMBER: HB 1290

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2013

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Veterans Education Center of Excellence.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Klinker

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *Commission for Higher Education-* This bill establishes the Veterans Education Center of Excellence to serve as a clearinghouse for information concerning educational benefits and programs available to veterans.

State Educational Institutions- The bill requires each state educational institution and programs to establish a Veterans Education Center. It requires each state educational institution to:

1. Provide a centralized location for admissions, registration, and financial administration services for veterans;
2. Provide reasonable accommodations at the state educational institution's fitness facility for veteran students with disabilities;
3. Develop programs to provide academic guidance specifically to veteran students;
4. Develop programs to provide access to counseling services or resources to veteran students who are disabled or suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder; and
5. Develop job search programs designed for veteran students.

The bill requires each state educational institution to designate a veterans assistance officer.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Commission for Higher Education-* The bill would establish the Veterans Education Center of Excellence within the Commission for Higher Education. The commission would be responsible for providing staff and office space for the center. The duties of the commission would include:

1. Establishing and maintaining a list of contact information for each state educational institution's veteran assistance officer.
2. Compiling information on programs and services available to veterans at each state educational institution.
3. Publishing the contact information on the commission's website.

The impact on the commission is probably minor. The commission's budget for FY 2013 is about \$1.2 M.

State Educational Institutions- The bill could have a minor impact on state educational institutions.

(1) The bill requires state educational institutions to provide a central location for admissions, registration for classes, and financial administration services for veteran students. This may require state educational institutions to physically move some personnel within the institution, but the cost of these requirements should be minor.

(2) The bill requires state educational institutions to develop programs to provide reasonable access to specialized counseling services or resources for veteran students who are disabled or veteran students suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder. The impact of this requirement should be minor relative to disabled veteran students since state educational institutions should be providing reasonable accommodations for all disabled students under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(3) The bill requires state educational institutions to develop programs to provide academic and career counseling and job search assistance to veteran students. The development and implementation of these programs could result in some minor one-time costs.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State educational institutions.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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